

**City of Alexandria, Virginia  
Park and Recreation Commission**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, May 23, 2013, 7:00 p.m.  
Potomac Yards Fire Station  
650 Maskell Street, Alexandria, Virginia**

7:00 p.m. – Walking Tour of the proposed Potomac Yards Metro Station’s landing sites.  
The tour was open to staff and the general public.

**Members Present:** Judy Guse-Noritake, Chairperson, Jennifer Atkins, Gina Baum, Stephen Beggs, Richard Brune, Ripley Forbes, Brian McPherson, Emma Schutzius and Nick Wagner (H.S. youth representatives).

**Excused Absences:** Judith Coleman, William Cromley.

**RPCA Staff Present:** Director James Spengler, Dinesh Tiwari, Deputy Director, Park Operations, Jack Browand, Division Chief Marketing, Special Events and Waterfront Operations, Ron Kagawa, Division Chief, Park Planning, Design and Capital Projects, Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator, Robin DeShields, Executive Assistant.

**Absent:** William Chesley, Deputy Director, Recreation Services, David A. Miller, Division Chief Recreation Services.

**Guests:** James Durham, Alexandria (BPAC), Elizabeth Wright, Chair, Holmes Run Park Committee, Kevin VanHise, Jack Schutzius, Tom Mulcahy, ACPS, Monika Szczepaniec, ACPS.

**Summary Minutes**

- I.** Call to Order by Chair, Judy Guse-Noritake. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Potomac Yards Fire Station meeting room.
- II.** Discussion: Potomac Yard Park/Metrorail Station landing sites tour. The Commission members and RPCA staff took a tour of the Potomac Yard Park. Bethany Carton, Park Planner provided an overview of the three alternatives and the no build alternative that are being studied in the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Environmental Impact Statement. The locations of the landings and station locations for each alternative were noted as related to Potomac Yard Park. The Chair noted that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a federal process and identified the importance of the Commission weighing in on this project, including providing comments on the EIS. The three build alternatives: Alternative A, Alternative B, Alternative D, and a no build alternative were discussed (See Attached Handout). The project will be brought back to the Commission in the fall. Additional information about the project can be found at [www.potomacyardmetro.com](http://www.potomacyardmetro.com)

**III. Approval of Summary Minutes: March 21, 2013, April 18, 2013.**

March 21, 2013 - Brune motioned to approve the March 21, minutes, Forbes seconded, all were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

April 18, 2013 - deferred to next meeting.

**IV. Distribution and Overview of the City Open Space Master Plan, Status of Implementation Report- Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator.**

Durham said this item will be taken up for discussion at the next meeting; Ms. Durham gave some highlights of the report. **See Staff Report & Attachments:** 1. Open Space Preserved Since Open Space Master Plan 2003 Approval (100 Acre Goal), 2. Open Space Master Plan-Status of Implementation and Recommendations for Future Action. Report includes a Status Report of 2003-2013, accomplishments. Pages 2 & 3 document lists properties protected and other key accomplishments. Pages 4 & 5 discuss projections for the future, how to move forward, next steps. Things have changed in the last 10 years, there are new ways to meet the goals of the Open Space Plan. Key recommendations-see memorandum pg. 4. Series of specific strategies that needed to occur in the next few months in order to bring a plan to City Council-a ten year action plan, includes: Establishment of an Interdepartmental Work Group, some recommendations include changes to zoning ordinance; using GIS to map underserved areas of City, where there is no open space within ¼ mile, and utilizing GIS to map sensitive natural resources areas, as candidates for additional protection. Finalize and implement a work plan to complete a Natural Resource Management Plan for Alexandria. In partnership with NVCT, ACPS, RPCA-Natural Resources Division, and the Office of Environmental Quality, to develop a collaborative outreach and education program emphasizing the protection of open space in City, reinvigorating outreach and education strategies from 2002. Document best practices in urban open space preservation and to finalize and implement policies for new storm water requirements while protecting/preserving public open space. These are immediate steps. This document will go to some of the original members of the Open Space Advisory Group and steering committee to all City Departments, PRC, RPCA, ACPS, and Environmental Policy Committee for initial feedback. Staff will work on key steps over the summer, and bring back 10 year action plan in fall for adoption. The Chair encouraged members to review and ask questions. She said some emerging issues are green roofs how much do they count. Other questions are what have we gained, what have we lost, what has been taken out of open space inventory, what is at risk.

**V. T.C. Williams Tennis Courts – Concept Plan Update.** Monika Szczepaniec, ACPS Educational Facilities, Planning Design and Construction Director: See Staff Report and map of proposed new tennis courts T.C. Williams H.S.: In the summer of 2012 as part of the CIPFY13 funding ACPS Educational Facilities Office hired a design consultant to perform a feasibility study of building six new tennis courts at T.C. Williams H.S.

- Szczepaniec gave a brief presentation on the new tennis court project; she introduced Tom Mulcahy and Kevin Van Hise of Kimley Horn, and Associates. Background - currently students at T.C. Williams H.S. need to go outside the City limits to play matches also to practice, this takes up valuable time. The current tennis courts at T.C. Williams are scattered. During the winter/spring of last year parents and teachers brought forward a plan to the School Board for new tennis courts, as part of FY2013 improvement plan. A feasibility study was done in fall –looked at two sites on North and

South. The study looked at parking, ADA accessibility, utilities, proper solar orientation (north and south), and how to fit six tennis courts onto site. The community and ACPS favored site A. Even though court lights were not part of the presentation at that time, neighbors raised concerns regarding regulated use of the courts after hours into the evening hours. They presented scheme A to the Alexandria City School Board. Met with Seminary Hills Association a few weeks ago to discuss joint programs.

- Van Hise, Kimley Horn- after feedback was received and identification of site as a preferred option. Met with coaches to get their feedback about how school staff feels regarding the layout of the courts. The current design shows the N.S. orientation and 6 courts broken up to two 3 court pods. The coaches preferred this option for practical reasons- See Handout. Six courts- equidistant from each other. Coaches had idea that establishes a spine down center of courts where bleachers will be. This will provide improved facility for spectators. Considering lights as part of DSUP application. Community expressed concerns regarding proximity to church. The site today is almost ideal, grade is mostly flat, did some cross-section to illustrate the relationship of the courts location to existing roadway. One on northern area –natural berm that disappears as it moves towards the school and therefore they are considering heavy landscaping in that area to naturally screen the courts.
- See Prospective view of courts -there will be an intermediate fence near bleachers to reduce balls rolling across courts. Using California corners; these are inexpensive details that make a difference; some storage discussed for equipment, looked at possibility of putting some storage in parking garage.

**Next Steps:**

- DSUP required due to request for lights. (Prior to school being built, a pre-condition of construction was that there would be no athletic lights. This condition will need to be changed.)
- Item is expected to be submitted next Thursday or Friday, goal to submit combined preliminary final report to Planning Commission late November/December, with construction late winter/spring for use in 2014.
- The Chair said tennis courts near Chinquapin have been there a long time. This is proposed area for a 50 meter pool, may impact tennis courts. It is important to have an agreement to allow public use and access when students are not using the new courts. A MOU may be needed with ACPS to allow shared use. The Chinquapin Master Plan will be presented to Planning Commission June 5<sup>th</sup>. The PRC feels strongly about having lights on tennis courts.
- Szczepaniec – the issue of lights were brought up at the community meeting. Neighbors seemed less concerned about light spillover than about the usage of tennis courts after hours. No comments received from Seminary Hills.
- The Chair said we are adding more and more students to school enrollment. Looking at co-located sites to use facilities more wisely. We need to be able to program and use courts in the evening hrs. at a reasonable time, having lighted courts is part of becoming an urban environment. The Chair asked if there were any other questions, there were none.

**Action:** The PRC will write a letter strongly in support of the project.

**VI. Division Updates:** To view Full Reports go to  
<http://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/COMBINEDPRCAGENDAREPORTSMAY232013.pdf>

- A. **Recreation Programs and Service Update** - William Chesley, Deputy Director- See Staff Report. Mr. Chesley was absent; there were no questions or comments on report.
- B. **Park Operations Report** – Dinesh Tiwari, Deputy Director- See Staff Report. There were no questions or comments.
- C. **Marketing, Special Events, Waterfront Operations** - Jack Browand, Division Chief- See Staff Report- there were no questions or comments.
- D. **Park Planning, Design & Capital Development Reports** – Ron Kagawa, Division Chief and Team- See Staff Reports.
  - a. **Update on Large Master Parks Process**- no updates- see list of park plan meeting dates.
  - b. **Distribution of Citizen Requests for June Hearing**- Laura Durham distributed handouts on each of the citizen's requests - See Staff Reports:

**CIP- External Project Requests:**

- 1. Lee Center Playground Expansion
- 2. Windmill Hill Off Leash Dog Exercise Area
- 3. Simpson Dog Exercise Area Lighting
- 4. Exercise Station(s) in Planning District I
- 5. Commonwealth Medians Improvements
- 6. W&OD Greenway Off Leash Dog Exercise Area

The Chair requested that Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator send out an email reminder four days prior to the June 20, meeting. Baum requested that the reminder be sent out the Friday, prior to the June 20 meeting, on June 14.

**VII. Director's Report** - James Spengler. See Attachment - Budget Memo #38: FY2014 Budget Adoption-Actions Taken Monday, May 8, 2013, memorandum to the Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council. See Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Final Add/Delete List, Recreation and Parks. The Director noted that in addition to other items; money has been put in the budget for the 50 meter pool option at Chinquapin Recreation Center, Item #6. See attachment- there were no other questions or comments.

**VIII. Reports from Commissioners (verbal updates):**

- A. **Waterfront Commission** - Gina Baum - said that the boat tour taken by the Commission of the S.W. and S.E. waterfront, in Washington D.C. was enlightening. The most important take away/observation was that the parks came first in the planning of the S.E. community; the Yards Park brought the people, was then followed by the residential units and now the businesses. The Chair said as we move forward, in Alexandria the one opportunity to do this is at the GenOn Plant site. The parks should be laid out first, and then do the development.
- B. **Youth Sport Committee**. Brian McPherson- Youth Sports has become more involved with inviting Council and school people to meetings now. It is an education regarding sports organizations acting more in union and better

collaborating. As a group baseball works with lacrosse and rugby and supporting each other.

Other- The Chair reported at Potomac Yards, 4 Mile Run, railroad bridge, route 1, pedestrian bridge; one became Potomac Avenue, the second one will be an Urban Deck, the third one will come out soon. There is an effort by some Arlington residents to stop this; they have been lobbying elected officials. 90% of it is located in Alexandria. Fill has been put on site-weeds grew; seen as open space, more to come.

- C. **Four Mile Run** – no updates.
- D. **Freedmen's Cemetery**- no updates.
- E. **ACPS & Capital Improvements** - Judy Guse-Noritake - no updates.
- F. **Community Gardens Policy**- Judy Guse-Noritake - no updates.
- G. **Ft. Ward** - Ripley Forbes - no updates.
- H. **ACPS School Projects**- Judy Guse-Noritake - no updates.
- I. **Jefferson Houston School** - William Cromley (absent), no updates.
- J. **Open Space** - Judy Guse -Noritake - no updates.
- K. **Braddock Plan Park**- Judy Guse-Noritake - no updates.

- IX. **Public Comments**- Elizabeth Wright, Chair Holmes Run Park Committee, she attended the master plan meeting for Holmes Run Park. It was not well attended, only five citizens attended. She wonders how to better connect with public. Follow-up Trail Markers- she is excited that trail markers will be installed in 60-90 days. They are making headway with emergency responders. Last Tuesday, May 14 had a four hour walk-through with park manager and new Police liaison. They found a homeless encampment. The park manager talked with park manager for Hensley, as of today the encampment is still there. There is a question of who is responsible Tuesday this week a nude person was encountered in All Veterans Park. She will continue to come back and share information.
- X. Agenda items for June 20, 2013, meeting and location, to be determined.
- XI. List of upcoming public meetings- a list was distributed at the meeting.

Adjourned: 8:45 p.m.